



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Health Care Financing Administration

Center for Medicaid and State Operations
Family and Childrens' Health Program Group
Division of Integrated Health Systems
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

August 25, 1999

Vicki Huff
Director of Managed Care Division
Alabama Medicaid Agency
501 Dexter Avenue
P.O. Box 5624
Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5624

It was a pleasure speaking to you on August 23, 1999 and the staff responsible for the development of the proposed Alabama Family Planning Program. Pursuant to our teleconference on August 23, 1999, the review team requires further clarification and elaboration on responses to some of HCFA's questions in a letter dated June 29, 1999. Please review Attachment A.

We will work with the Alabama team on the development of an Evaluation Plan designed to warrant an evaluation which closely links to the program overall objectives. By working with Alabama from the inception of the program, objectives will be monitored to ensure that the demonstrations significantly impact the lives of the target population of women and overall to reduce the number of unintended births in the State of Alabama. If the waiver is approved, Alabama will be provided with 30 days to submit to HCFA an evaluation design for the approved program.

Regarding Mr. Murphy's comments on Alabama's responses to HCFA's questions on Budget Neutrality, upon Mr. Ed Hutton's return to the office, a call will be arranged to address this program area. Mr. Hutton is available to provide any assistance on budget neutrality and can be reached at (410)786-6616.

Please be assured that we are committed to working with you to resolve these issues to our mutual satisfaction. Please do not hesitate to call me at (410)786-3233 and my Internet address is: MBrowne@hcfa.gov. We look forward to working with you on resolving these issues with the proposed family planning demonstration.

Sincerely,

Michelle Browne, M.S.W.

cc: Mike Fiore---Director--Integrated Health Systems Group
Donna Cross--Atlanta Regional Office

Encl.

ATTACHMENT (A)

ACCESS TO SERVICES

(1) Please explain the chart from the Urban Institute which was utilized as a response for Question #two which relates to the percentage of low-income women who have access to Medicaid or private insurance coverage for family planning services.

CARE COORDINATION

- (1) Please provide a discussion of the proposed activities of the Family Planning Coordinators.
- (2) Please provide HCFA with the curriculum for the coordinators.
- (3) Please explain why only 15% of the eligible women will be entitled for case management.
- (4) Please provide the case management assessment tool for the family planning program.
- (5) Please provide evidence which demonstrates that case management significantly improves the well-being of the target population. Please utilize examples from the HIV and Prenatal Case Management Programs currently implemented in Alabama.
- (6) Please describe how providers will be trained to access the program.
- (7) Please explain the interface between the care coordinators and the providers.

ENROLLMENT

- (1) Please explain the three groups of women eligible for program and their connection to the care coordinator.
- (2) Please provide the new application developed for the proposed Family Planning Program.
- (3) Please explain the justification for certifying women for the term of the demonstration. How frequently does Alabama redetermine Medicaid eligibility? What is the income verification mechanism in Alabama? Will Alabama verify eligibility of target population? What measures will Alabama take to verify income?

EVALUATION

- (1) Please provide an evaluation plan. Who will develop the Evaluation and what are the qualifications of the proposed evaluation team personnel? Please remove the objectives which relate to teen age beneficiaries and potential male partners since the program will not target these population groups.
- (2) Please explain the data collection strategy to evaluate the outcome of the program.
- (3) Have you considered a plan to evaluate averted births for high risk women receiving case management and for women who did not receive case management?
- (4) Please provide an update on the evaluation plan developed by Saundra Ivey, RN, MSN. Ms. Ivey has a hypothesis that “a significantly greater proportion of patients exposed to a structured patient communication/education method, PT3 will successfully delay pregnancy . . . ” Her proposed hypothesis appears to be important for this proposed family planning program.

OUTREACH

(1)Although the public health service area will be developing local outreach strategies which significantly meet the needs of local community residents, please provide an initial outreach plan with possible time frames and activities to be implemented.

GENERAL PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

(1)What is the interaction between this proposed waiver, Title X and Medicaid?

(2)Please discuss Alabama's development of a data system to track services provided to this target population and to evaluate the goals and objectives of the waiver.

(3)Please discuss Alabama's experience with the Family Planning Program implemented in Mobile. Is care coordination part of this program? What valuable lessons about the population in the Bay Health Plan have been learned which will improve the implementation of this statewide demonstration.